UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE:	Case No. 11-10219-mew
	Chapter 7
KENNETH IRA STARR, .	
Debtor	
ROBERT L. GELTZER, . AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE, .	Adv. Proc. 14-01934-mew
Plaintiff, . v.	
JOAN TOBIN and MAURICE TOBIN, .	
Defendants	
ROBERT L. GELTZER, . AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE, .	Adv. Proc. 14-02065-mew
Plaintiff, . v.	
FRED P. HOCHBERG, .	
Defendant	
ROBERT L. GELTZER, . AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE, .	Adv. Proc. 14-02394-mew
Plaintiff, . v.	
TURNBERRY ASSOCIATES, .	
Defendant	
ROBERT L. GELTZER, . AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE, .	Adv. Proc. 14-02395-mew
Plaintiff, . v.	
HAROLD EVANS and TINA BROWN .	
Defendants	

ROBERT L. GELT: AS CHAPTER 7 TI		Adv.	Proc.	14-02396-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
IM READY MADE	LLC, .			
	Defendant			
ROBERT L. GELT AS CHAPTER 7 TH		Adv.	Proc.	14-02397-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
JACQUELINE SOF	FER, .			
	Defendant			
ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TH		Adv.	Proc.	14-02399-mew
V.	Plaintiff, .			
SHELDON FIREMAI CAFÉ CONCEPTS,				
	Defendants			
ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TH		Adv.	Proc.	14-02400-mew
V.	Plaintiff, .			
BROADWAY VIDEO	and LORNE MICHAELS,.			
	Defendants			

ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TR		Adv.	Proc.	14-02413-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
SRJ, INC.,	•			
	Defendant			
ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TF		Adv.	Proc.	14-02415-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
SUSAN JAFFE TAN	IE, .			
	Defendant			
ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TF		Adv.	Proc.	14-02429-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
CHOP CHOP,	•			
	Defendant			
ROBERT L. GELTZ AS CHAPTER 7 TR		Adv.	Proc.	14-02430-mew
v.	Plaintiff, .			
HARVEY WEINSTEI	······································			
	Defendant			

. Adv. Proc. 14-15-01100-mew ROBERT L. GELTZER, ROBERT L. GELTZER,
AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE,

Plaintiff,

v.

KEITH BARISH,

Defendant.

ROBERT L. GELTZER, Adv. Proc. 14-15-01104-mew

AS CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE,

Plaintiff,

v.

SARAH B. HRDY, AS TRUSTEE OF . One Bowling Green

THE CAMILLA ALEXANDRA HRDY . New York, NY 10004-1408

ART IV C. TRUST, et al,

. Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Defendants. . 10:39 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT STIPULATION; ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-01934-MEW GELTZER V. TOBIN ET AL MOTION BY TRUSTEE TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN TRUSTEE AND DEFENDANTS;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-01934-MEW GELTZER V. TOBIN ET AL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

(CONTINUED)

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHAEL E. WILES UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

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TRANSCRIPT OF (CONTINUED)

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02065-MEW GELTZER V. HOCHBERG PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: $\underline{14-02394-\text{MEW}}$ GELTZER V. TURNBERRY ASSOCIATES, PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02395-MEW GELTZER V. EVANS ET AL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02396-MEW GELTZER V. IM READY MADE LLC PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02397-MEW GELTZER V. SOFFER PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02399-MEW GELTZER V. FIREMAN ET AL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: $\underline{14-02400-\text{MEW}}$ GELTZER V. BROADWAY VIDEO ET AL, PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02413-MEW GELTZER V. SRJ, INC. PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02416-MEW GELTZER V. JAFFE TANE PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02415-MEW GELTZER V. JAFFE TANE MOTION BY DEFENDANT TO DISMISS COMPLAINT;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02429-MEW GELTZER V. CHOP CHOP PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-02430-MEW GELTZER V. WEINSTEIN PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 14-01100-MEW GELTZER V. BARISH PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE;

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING: 15-01104-MEW GELTZER V. SARAH B. HRDY, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CAMILLA ALEXANDRA HRDY ART IV C. TRUST PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE

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Regarding the Hrdy matter:

MITCHEL V. CRANER 60 East 42nd Street

New York, NY

(Proceedings commence at 10:38 a.m.)

THE COURT: Kenneth Starr.

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MR. GELTZER: Morning, Your Honor. I'm Robert L. Geltzer, the trustee, and my firm is counsel to me as trustee. 5 This is the first time I have the honor of appearing before $6 \parallel \text{you}$, so I'd like to welcome you to the bench, Your Honor.

> THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. GELTZER: Your Honor, as you know, we have $9 \parallel$ several adversary proceedings. Tell me if you would, please, 10∥do you want them handled in the numerical order as they appear on the agenda that was sent to you or do you want Mr. Wolf and Mr. Bruh from my office to be going up and down? Whatever your 13 preference is.

MR. BRUH: Because certain of the hearings are 15 handled by us, I'll --

> MR. GELTZER: Yeah. How would you like it done? THE COURT: Do it whatever way is most efficient for

18 the attorneys who need to speak, so --

MR. GELTZER: Okay. Then we'll begin with Mr. Wolf, 20 but you may want other appearances.

THE COURT: We'll take appearances as people speak.

MR. GELTZER: Okay, thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Wolf.

MR. WOLF: Good morning, Your Honor. Robert A. Wolf, 25 Tarter Krinsky & Drogin. We are special litigation counsel to

1 the trustee. Also with me from my office, Your Honor, this morning near the table, Gregory Skiff --

MR. SKIFF: Morning, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.

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MR. WOLF: -- and I'm going to also introduce to Your Honor a summer associate working with our program this summer, Rachel Klein, who's going through her third year of Cardozo Law School.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. WOLF: Your Honor, if I may, I'd like to address 11 \parallel the first matter on the agenda, which is a Rule 9019 motion for approval by Your Honor of a settlement in excess of \$865,000 relating to a state court litigation brought on behalf of the 14 trustee against 170 East End Avenue, LLC.

Very quick background, Your Honor. The debtor, 16 Kenneth Starr, had made a downpayment several years prior to the petition date in the amount of \$1.39 million for the 18 purchase of a condominium unit, penthouse condominium unit, up 19∥ on East End Avenue on the upper east side of Manhattan. 20 that through an entity called Pastar, P-A-S-T-A-R, LLC, which he was the 100-percent owner of. So upon the filing of the -of his petition and him being judged a debtor, the 100-percent membership interest in Pastar became an asset of the estate.

There was a dispute with regard to the purchase 25 contract for that condominium. Mr. Starr took the petition 1 that noise emanating from rooftop structures of the building 2 were in excess of the New York City noise code and were 3 preventing him from having quiet enjoyment of what was to be 4 his condominium unit. There was an actual expert report 5 prepared by a noise expert that he had retained. The condominium owner/seller also had its own report done, which was in conflict, of course, with that of Mr. Starr.

THE COURT: What a surprise.

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MR. WOLF: What a surprise. The money -- the 10∥downpayment was held in escrow. Mr. Starr refused to close on 11 the contract. The condominium developer, which was the seller 12 under the unit, took the position that the contract was 13 terminated and had retained the downpayment. The downpayment 14 has been held actually in the escrow account of the seller's 15∥attorneys, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, for a number of years now 16 and has accrued interest. It's up in excess of 1.4 million 17 now.

We brought the lawsuit on behalf of the trustee in 19∥state supreme court. We are counting. There was an answer to 20 the complaint. The defendant started a counterclaim for declaratory judgment. It was entitled to retain the downpayment. We had brief exchange of document discovery before the depositions had even begun. We started settlement negotiations, and those negotiations culminated in the 25 agreement whereby the estate will receive 60 percent, six-oh

1 percent, of the downpayment amount, which amount now, with 2 interest accruing, to in excess of \$865,000.

We're avoiding any further discovery. We're avoiding $4 \parallel$ motion practice. We're avoiding a likely trial where there 5 would be a battle between the noise experts. We submit this is 6 a very beneficial settlement for the estate without the need to $7\parallel$ incur any further litigation expenses. There has been no opposition to the motion, and we would ask Your Honor to approve the settlement.

THE COURT: Okay. Does anybody else wish to be heard 11 as to this motion? All right. I will -- oh, I'm sorry. 12∥ there anybody on the phone who wishes to be heard?

(No audible response)

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THE COURT: All right. I'm prepared to approve the 15 settlement.

MR. WOLF: Thank you, Your Honor. May we submit an 17 order --

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. WOLF: -- by email to chambers? Thank you very 20 much, Your Honor.

There are two other settlements through 9019 motions this morning, and with Your Honor's permission, Mr. Bruh will address those.

> THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRUH: Your Honor, for the record, Mark Bruh for

1 Robert Geltzer, Chapter 7 trustee. Our firm has several 2 matters next, so I'll go through all those, the first of which 3 is the settlement pursuant to Rule 9019 against Maurice and 4 Joan Tobin, 14-01934. This settlement is for \$15,000. 5 funds have been paid to the estate.

The background here is we had brought the adversary 7 proceeding seeking \$100,000 in connection with unpaid 8 receivables owed to the debtors. At first, she was joined and we exchanged documents informally with the defendant's counsel. 10∥ It was learned that this -- the receiver in this case, before 11 it came into bankruptcy, had pursued this receivable and had 12 reached a settlement with these defendants, but the defendant 13 alleges it was a global settlement. The receiver was settling 14 a claim of \$50,000, not \$100,000.

So in light of that, we -- I had discussions with the 16 defendant. We actually exchanged its position statements, 17 briefing accord and satisfaction. We went over the issue of 18∥ was this a global settlement, did it encompass the full amount 19∥or not, and ultimately we disagreed, but we agreed we should 20 | settle it so we didn't have to incur further costs in the case.

The motion has been served on all parties in interest. There's been no opposition. We ask that Your Honor approve this settlement.

THE COURT: Okay. Anybody wish to be heard on this? (No audible response)

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THE COURT: All right. Submit an order. 2 prepared to approve it.

MR. BRUH: Thank you, Judge.

The next settlement, Your Honor, I just listed it in 5 the settlement book. It is not on for today. It's on for a 6 July 21st return date in the adversary 14-02399, but it's on 7 the Court's calendar for a pretrial. So those papers have been filed, served, and we have that return date cleared with your chambers.

Return to the second prong on our agenda, the matters 11∥ settled in principle, and these matters are also on the Court's 12 calendar for pretrial conferences. The motions have not been 13 filed. Certain of them have been prepared. Let me go through 14 | them.

The first one is 14-02065 against Fred Hochberg. 16 settlement is for \$10,000, and I'll do a further -- I will tell 17 the Court more when we file the motion before Your Honor.

18 Excuse me, I can tell --

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THE COURT: Is that going to be on the same date as 20 the last?

MR. BRUH: We will try to put that on the 21st. I 22 can tell you the check is in the mail and the stip has been signed. I was emailed a PDF of both of those, so we can get 24 the motion filed next week. I believe that we can use the 21st 25 return date.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BRUH: The next two matters are related matters, the <u>Turnberry Associates</u> and <u>Soffer</u>. Those matters will be -if the Court allows us to be put on this July 21st date.

> Turnberry and which other one? THE COURT:

MR. BRUH: The one below it, Jacqueline Soffer.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRUH: We have received the settlement funds. The stip has been signed and the motions, I believe, are to be served this week, so it will be able to be put on the 21st with 11 the firing matter.

> THE COURT: Okay.

The last matter, Broadway Video, we MR. BRUH: 14 settled that one in principle. I received comments to the stipulation of settlement. I just have to circulate it back to the defendant, make sure we agree on just the payment terms and 17 certain reliefs. I'm confident that'll get done. I'm not so sure that I'll be able to put this one on for the 21st, so if 19∥not, I'll contact your chambers and get another date --

> THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRUH: -- for the future.

This is the part, Your Honor, now that we're just going to jump a bit, and the next matter that our office is handling are the -- are also two related matters, 14-02429 and 14-02430, Chop Chop and Harvey Weinstein. Counsel for the

 $1 \parallel$ defendants are here, so they want to put their name on the 2 record.

MS. AIELLO: Good morning, Your Honor. Kathleen 4 Aiello from Fox Rothschild. We're counsel of record to both 5 Chop Chop and Harvey Weinstein. With me today in the court is Charlie Prince, who is an attorney for the Weinstein Company.

MR. PRINCE: Good morning.

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THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. WOLF: Your Honor, I thought we were going to be $10\,\|$ able to settle these matters. One, we were contemplating a 11 dismissal of the Chop Chop -- Chop Chop is related into the Weinstein matter -- after we exchanged documents informally and it was learned that the claim of Chop Chop was perhaps subsumed in the Weinstein matter, so we were trying to resolve both of these. Just the other day, settlement talks broke down in this matter. I note discovery pursuant to the Court's order ended June 16th, so we're prepared to go forward and go to trial in 18 this matter because I don't think it can be resolved.

And if you want to hear from defense counsel --THE COURT: Okay. Did I or somebody before me give you a specific date for a final pretrial conference or trial dates, anything?

MR. WOLF: We have not. The scheduling order said 24 discovery ends June 16th provided there's good cause, and we'd like to argue for good cause to extend it, Your Honor, which we 1 are ready to go to trial, once again.

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Okay. I'll hear from the defendants. THE COURT:

MR. PRINCE: Your Honor, I'm Charlie Prince. I work 4 for Harvey Weinstein.

Your Honor, settlement discussions have been ongoing 6 and we've exchanged documents informally, as Mr. Bruh 7 mentioned. We'd hoped to be further along in our settlement discussions at this point in reaching a resolution. Of course, that didn't happen. We've only just answered, and with your 10∥permission, we'd like to request additional time for discovery.

THE COURT: When was the lawsuit commenced? MS. AIELLO: Your Honor, the lawsuit was first 13 commenced in December of last year, 2014. Yes, and the answer 14 was filed in late May.

THE COURT: Okay. And the order that scheduled a 16 discovery cutoff of June 16th, when was that entered?

MR. WOLF: Your Honor, if I may, that was entered 18∥ subsequent to the last pretrial conference in March, so I would say probably April. I had informed the Court at that time there had been ongoing informal discovery between the parties in these matters.

THE COURT: And has any discovery happened at all? MR. PRINCE: We've exchanged some documents 24 informally.

MR. WOLF: I have been served discovery demands.

1 They were held in abeyance. We thought the case would be 2 settled. I have received some documents informally, but I 3 don't think the matter is going to reach a settlement based on 4 my last discussions with counsel.

THE COURT: And how much discovery do you think you 6 need to do?

MR. PRINCE: Your Honor, we would request 90 days for 8 fact discovery, and I don't think we need more than 30 days for expert discovery. We anticipate there would be some depositions as part of this, and I know it's the summer months, 11 that could be difficult to schedule.

THE COURT: What's the amount that's being sought in 13 this case?

MR. PRINCE: Twenty-five thousand, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm not going to give you 90 days and 30 days for a \$25,000 case, but I'll give you an extra 45 days to do whatever you need to do, and then we'll have another 18 conference and then we'll schedule this for trial.

MR. PRINCE: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So submit an order that gives you until the beginning of August to finish your discovery, all discovery, and work together to get that done. And then we'll have a conference -- we'll have a pretrial conference on August 24 11th.

MR. WOLF: Your Honor, could I just check my calendar

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THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. WOLF: -- for freedom of that date? That's fine, I -- Your Honor, if I may, that'll be the holding date for all these matters going forward? Some of these will be adjourned, as well.

THE COURT: We could probably do that, yes.

MR. WOLF: Okay.

MS. AIELLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

MR. WOLF: Your Honor, then just jumping forward to 12 the last page, around four defendants in default. So I had before Your Honor two notices of presentment for default judgments in these matters. I had told them before they were 15 going to be signed by Your Honor.

The first one, 14-02396, IM Ready, LLC, what happened 17∥ here was the default -- the notice of presentment of default 18∥ judgment came back to me "Return to Sender," no good address, 19∥ but it's all prior correspondence, that address was good 20 service. So in an abundance of caution, I did not want to 21∥ obtain a judgment now that I might not have given prior notice to this defendant. But like I said, the complaint -everything I've done in this case, I never had a problem with the address for years. And in fact, I had spoken to this 25 defendant and I did have informal discovery where I sent over

1 documents supporting our claim, after which they stopped 2 talking to me. So I need to -- a little more time to do a little more research in this, and we would ask to adjourn this 4 matter to that August date.

The second one, 14-02413, SRJ, this matter, I pulled 6 because prior to the Court signing the default judgment, a 7 representative, a business manager of the defendant contacted our office. We've exchanged documents. We've also exchanged settlement offers. So I'm confident this one will be resolved, so I'd also ask if we could just adjourn this one to that 11 August date, as well.

> THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. WOLF: And that concludes, at least, the matters being held solely by -- being handled solely by our office, 15 Your Honor.

> THE COURT: Okay.

Morning, Your Honor. My name is Gregory MR. SKIFF: 18 Skiff. I'm here on behalf of the Chapter 7 trustee in the Starr matter, as well. I'm referring Your Honor to the notice of agenda that was filed yesterday with respect to the first matter under 0.3, pretrial conferences. It's Adversary Proceeding Number 14-02395, and that is the matter versus Harold Evans and Tina Brown.

The amount in controversy in that matter is 25 \$98,410.19. There has been extensive amount of discovery

1 between the parties. We've exchanged thousands of pages of $2 \parallel$ documents up until as late as last night, Your Honor. 3 has also been approximately eight depositions that have been 4 taken, and the parties have exchanged settlement offers, 5 although there have not been -- there has not been an agreement 6 as of yet.

If opposing counsel would like to make his appearance 8 for the record.

MR. GANT: Good morning, Your Honor. Scott Gant from 10∥Boies, Schiller and Flexner for the defendants, Mr. Evans and Ms. Brown. My colleague, Colleen Harrison should be maybe on 12 the telephone.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. GANT: You know, we're here for our status 15 report, Your Honor. Mr. Skiff is correct, the discovery deadline in the case ended two days ago, this past Monday. have completed discovery and substantially all of discovery 18 issues have been resolved. As Mr. Skiff mentioned, there have 19 been efforts to engage in settlement.

There is \$98,000 at issue, as well as the threat of 21 attorney's fees and costs, which of course are of concern to my clients. There is great reluctance on the part of my clients 23 to settle the case because there is, I think, no meaningful dispute that there was an oral agreement between Mr. Starr and 25 Mr. Evans. They would not have to pay any more fees to Starr &

1 Company. We had several depositions that have corroborated 2 that, as well as documents which also support that position, 3 and our client is willing to pay because of the risk that they 4 have that there will be a judgment and also the imposition of 5 attorney's fees and costs. However, there's a limit to what 6 they're willing to do, and they feel, in their words -- Mr. 7 | Evans testified to this in his deposition -- like they're being extorted. There is really no dispute that there was an agreement not to pay and that Mr. Starr had the authority to make that oral agreement between the defendants and Starr & 11 Company.

MR. SKIFF: Just to speak to that, Your Honor. There 13 absolutely is a dispute as to whether or not there's an 14 agreement between Starr & Company and Harold Evans and Tina Brown that they would not have to pay for any services 16∥rendered, and I believe that as a result of the discovery 17∥ that's been exchanged between the parties and the depositions 18 that have been taken, it is far from certain whether such an agreement even existed, and to the extent an agreement did exist, to what services they pertain to and that -- for what period of time such an agreement would relate to.

THE COURT: All right. How long a trial do you think 23 you'll have?

Your Honor, if the case is tried, we think MR. GANT: 25 it'll be done in two days.

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THE COURT: Do you agree with that?

MR. SKIFF: I would agree with that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Does it need two days?

MR. GANT: It may take less, but you know better than 5 we do, Your Honor, how these things tend to take longer than 6 one expects, and I'm notoriously underestimating, so --

I've also -- I'm also learning very THE COURT: quickly that they tend to take whatever time is allotted to them.

MR. GANT: That's fair enough, Your Honor. It may be 11 that we could do it in one day. It really -- it depends on 12 who's on the witness list of each side, which of course, we 13 don't know yet.

> THE COURT: Yes.

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MR. GANT: We took the depositions of everyone that 16 was on the initial disclosures of the other side, which is --17 and they took depositions of the two defendants and the 18 personal assistant of the defendants, which is how we got to eight. But I think several of those witnesses have no relevant information, so it may be that we could do it in fewer than two full days.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to direct you to submit a joint pretrial order on July 9th. We'll have a final 24 pretrial conference on July 21st at 10 a.m.

MR. GANT: I'm sorry, what was the date?

THE COURT: July 21st. And how does July 30th look 1 2 like as a trial date? 3 MR. SKIFF: Excuse me, Your Honor. May I check my schedule? 5 THE COURT: Yeah. MR. GANT: I believe that's fine, Your Honor. 6 If it 7 turns out that there is an issue, if I could contact chambers. MR. SKIFF: That's fine also, Your Honor. 8 9 THE COURT: Good. Okay. 10 MR. GANT: The only thing I wanted to mention, Your 11 \parallel Honor, in candor is that I'm discussing with my clients the 12 possibility of filing a motion for summary judgment. I presume that if the client elects to proceed in that manner that you would want to postpone the trial date. Perhaps that's not 15 correct. I would only postpone the trial date if I 16 THE COURT: 17 decided to grant summary judgment. MR. GANT: Okay. Well, we'll make sure, if we file 18 19∥ one, that we have it filed in time for you to consider it in 20 advance of the trial date. 21 THE COURT: Thank you. 22 MR. GANT: Thank you, Your Honor. 23 MR. SKIFF: Your Honor, next, I'll refer you to Adversary Proceeding Number 14-02446. This is the matter

versus Annie Liebovitz and her affiliated entities.

This action is -- the amount at controversy is $2 \parallel \$1,035,096$. There has been a motion to dismiss filed, and it's scheduled for a hearing on July 23rd, 2015. I believe the 4 response from the Chapter 7 trustee is due in mid-July.

Your Honor, we understand that the discovery schedule 6 is not stayed pursuant to the rules in this court when a motion 7 to dismiss is filed, but if Your Honor would like to put -- for us to put off discovery while the motion is pending, we would just ask that we be given 90 days from the date it's heard to 10 conduct discovery.

THE COURT: Are you asking to postpone discovery? 12 Has the other side asked to postpone discovery?

MR. SKIFF: We have -- there's no discovery schedule 14 at this time, so --

THE COURT: Oh, okay. There's no scheduling order in 16 that matter at this point?

> MR. SKIFF: No.

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THE COURT: All right. Well, we'll just -- let's 19 | just hear the motion in July, and then we'll decide --

> MR. SKIFF: Okay.

THE COURT: -- what to do. I see you have July 23rd. We may move that to July 21 to put you on the same date as your other matters.

Okay. Okay. The next matter, Your MR. SKIFF: 25 Honor, is Adversary Proceeding 15-01100, and that's versus 1 Keith Barish. The amount at controversy is \$341,641.29. 2 There, as well, a motion to dismiss has been filed and it's 3 scheduled to be heard on July 1st, 2015. Again, there's no 4 discovery schedule in effect, Your Honor, so if you would 5 like --

MR. SNYDER: Good morning, Your Honor. This is Jeffrey Snyder with Bilzin Sumberg on behalf of the defendant in this adversary proceeding, Keith Barish, and with me on the phone this morning is my partner, Scott Baena.

THE COURT: Okay. Good morning.

MR. SNYDER: Good morning.

THE COURT: All right. So this one's scheduled for 13 July 1st, did you say?

> MR. SKIFF: Yes.

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MR. SNYDER: Your Honor, I think it would be our --16 the defendant's view that an adjournment of 60 or 90 days of 17∥ this status conference would make sense given all the possible 18 outcomes of the motion to dismiss. Again, there's been no 19∥initial disclosures or discovery conference, and obviously we 20∥think -- you know, we think based on the attachments to the complaints and their inability to tell us what services were allegedly provided, that the quantum meruit claim and the accounts abated claim fail on their face.

MR. SKIFF: Your Honor, we would have no objection to 25 that.

THE COURT: And I'm -- but I'm unclear. 1 2 issued a scheduling order on this one already? MR. SKIFF: You have not. 3 4 MR. SNYDER: No, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: And what is the request for now, to 6 postpone the motion to dismiss or just postpone --7 MR. SNYDER: No. No, Your Honor, just to roll the 8 status conference until perhaps the September 22nd date that you mentioned earlier. 10 THE COURT: Well, if you're coming in on July 1st, we 11 won't schedule anything else until we have that argument, and 12 then we'll decide what to do then. 13 MR. SNYDER: That makes sense. 14 THE COURT: Okay? 15 MR. SKIFF: Your Honor, the next matter is Adversary 16 Proceeding Number 15-01104. This is versus the H-R-D-Y, and 17 it's a number of trusts, as well as I believe three entities. 18 The amount at controversy there is \$13,212.50. An answer has 19∥ been filed and -- but there has -- and the complaint was filed 20 \parallel on May 1st, 2015, and the answer was filed thereafter. 21 no scheduling order for that matter. 22 THE COURT: Okay. 23 MR. CRANER: Your Honor, I'm here on the Hrdy matter. 24∥Mitchel V. Craner, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, New York

25 10165. Good morning, Judge.

THE COURT: Good morning. All right. I think I --2 you know the scheduling orders that I've been entering in these things, so if you'd just submit a proposed scheduling order with that -- with the usual parameters, I'll enter it.

MR. SKIFF: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE CLERK: What date (indiscernible)?

THE COURT: I'm sorry?

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THE CLERK: What date (indiscernible)?

THE COURT: That'll depend on what the scheduling $10\,\|$ order says, so as part of the scheduling order, just put in the 11∥usual -- I usually allow three months for discovery of these, and just put in a date in September when you want to have the 13 next conference.

MR. SKIFF: Okay. Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. I think we already gave you a date in September for something else, so you might want to pick that 17 same date.

MR. BRUH: Your Honor, I know we have the August 11th 19∥ date. I didn't know what September date.

THE COURT: Okay. I probably gave September to 21 somebody else.

MR. SKIFF: Next, Your Honor, under .5, arbitration, there's just one matter there, Adversary Proceeding Number 14-01935. This is versus Ginley. The amount at controversy 25 there is \$146,900. There is a stipulation and order

1 compelling --2 THE COURT: I'm sorry, which one is this? I'm not 3 finding it on my --MR. SKIFF: It's on the last page, Your Honor --4 5 THE COURT: You're looking at a different --6 MR. SKIFF: -- of the notice of agenda that was filed 7 yesterday. MR. BRUH: Your Honor, it wouldn't technically, I 8 9 quess, be on the Court's calender because it's been punted over 10 \parallel to arbitration, but as a status conference as to all --11 THE COURT: Okay. 12 MR. BRUH: -- matters pending, we thought to put it 13 on our agenda. THE COURT: So what's happening in that one? 14 15 MR. SKIFF: Your Honor, the parties were endeavoring 16 to commence the arbitration proceeding, but it -- we became 17 aware that some of the concerns that the defendant's counsel 18 had had been alleviated, and so we think we may be able to 19 stipulate to have the matter heard as -- in an adversary 20 proceeding in this court. If that's possible, we would try and 21 do that. And so, you know, we will obviously let the Court know as soon as possible if that is a possibility. If not, the parties will just go forward with the arbitration. 23 24 THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SKIFF: Lastly, Your Honor, turning back to .3

1 under pretrial conferences, Adversary Proceeding Number $2 \parallel 14-02415$, this is versus Susan Jaffe Tane. The amount in 3 controversy is \$12,000, and there has been a motion to dismiss $4 \parallel \text{filed}$. The oral argument is on for today, and my colleague, $5 \parallel Bob Wolf$, will be handling the oral argument on that. 6 THE COURT: Okay. Let's just hold that for a second 7 because there's only one other matter that I don't think is going to take very long that we might as well get out of the way, the George Liakeas case. 10 (Recess taken at 11:10 a.m.) 11 (Proceedings resume at 11:12 a.m.) 12 THE COURT: All right. Let's go back to the Susan 13 Tane matter. MR. SOLOVAY: Good morning, Your Honor. I guess it's 14 15 still morning. THE COURT: Still morning, yes. 16 17 MR. SOLOVAY: I don't know whether Your Honor has had 18 a chance to read all the papers. 19 THE COURT: I did. 20 MR. SOLOVAY: Okay. Then I won't show them. 21 the motion was originally based on a deposition of Peter Lev, which is attached to the motion, one of the managing directors of Starr who handled --23 THE COURT: Can you speak a little louder? 24 25 MR. SOLOVAY: -- managing director of Starr who

1 handled Ms. Tane's matters and the matters of several other 2 clients that I referred to him. Our business -- our 3 arrangement by then was not a business arrangement. We were, I 4 would say -- well, I would say friends. I had helped him and 5 his brother, as I think you know, end their partnership in Long 6 Island, freeing Ken Starr to come here. I remained friendly with him. I think it was -- I could have done some work, legal work for him, but if so, it was minimal, but I did make the mistake of referring a number of clients to him.

I myself lost about a half-million dollars from a 11 favor he did me, but I was never a full investor (indiscernible). But the deposition of Peter Lev I think provides more than enough grounds to dismiss this case.

> THE COURT: But how is that a motion to dismiss --MR. SOLOVAY: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- as opposed to a motion for summary judgment?

MR. SOLOVAY: It really should have been a motion for 19∥ summary judgment. You're quite right, Your Honor, and I think that's a mistake in the motion. But to let you know what is involved in it, the dep -- and in terms of depositions, which by the way they are now seeking along with extensive discovery, despite the fact that they cross-examined -- everything that Ms. Tane knows was disclosed at this deposition, including all 25 the documents that she had.

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THE COURT: Has she testified?

MR. SOLOVAY: No, she hasn't testified. Peter -- and $3 \parallel$ if she did testify, all she would testify is that these were 4 the documents. They cross-examined her for probably -- not 5 quite as long. It's -- if you look at the deposition transcript, the cross-examination starts about I'd say a little less timely than mine.

THE COURT: The witness who testified, how do you pronounce his name, Lev?

MR. SOLOVAY: Lev, L-E-V.

THE COURT: Lev.

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MR. SOLOVAY: And he testified to an assortment of a 13 rather unusual sampling, which I think is very compelling. 14 had some ten cases that he was handling after people who had 15 been referred to him, like the clients of mine who came with 16∥him. And he had shown in this rather, well, meaningful sample 17 that three of the cases were totally phony, that they had been 18 paid. He came up with several other cases that were highly 19 questionable, so as a pretty interesting sample -- and I, by 20 the way, can give you a sample of one more --

THE COURT: Does Mr. Lev do work for Ms. Tane now? 22 Is he --

MR. SOLOVAY: No, she does not. She does -- just 24 full disclosure, he does represent a client -- at least one client of mine, a former client who uses his services, and I

1 think he felt compelled to test -- he was not a happy camper 2 testifying, as he may have said in the deposition, and he 3 corrected me on a number of things. But what he was very clear 4 about was that these books are cooked and that they were never ||5|| -- in the case of my client, what happened was that she had 6 lost about a million dollars as it turns out. And as he was $7\parallel$ getting out -- started getting out, you know, sending back to her family money manager, fiduciary trust, it took a while for her to get out. She had directed stop the music to Peter, and 10∥he had agreed, and he had told Ken Starr that the billing that 11 she received the next year was totally inappropriate.

But not only was it inappropriate, but it was totally 13 the wrong amount because by then she had lost close to a million, so the billing was based on her original investment percentage, and it was even sent to the wrong address. didn't change the address. They just kept going with the 17 cooked books, and Lev was very clear on that part about how he and others by 2010 were very, very well aware that the books 19 were cooked.

And he had many, many complaints to Starr about it. He had gone to Starr and told him several times that the billing to my client, to Ms. Tane, was inappropriate. didn't pay any attention, and obviously you know the reason why. He was in big trouble at that time.

THE COURT: Well, I did read through the testimony.

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1 Maybe the books were cooked as to your client. I don't know. 2 I'm not prepared to find that every single record that was ever created at Starr was a forgery.

MR. SOLOVAY: Of course not.

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THE COURT: I don't think anybody went that far in 6 their testimony. And so I don't see how I could dismiss this $7 \parallel$ case based on that deposition, which is factual matter. I need 8 to have a hearing, and if you want to cut off discovery, that doesn't seem appropriate to me. You may believe that Ms. Tane 10∥ has nothing to add, but the trustee is entitled to hear that from Ms. Tane herself and to pursue it. If you think that the trustee is pursuing something that the trustee should have abandoned, I'll hear that application then.

MR. SOLOVAY: I don't think it; I know it, Your 15 Honor.

THE COURT: Yeah. I'll hear -- if that's what you think once discovery is done, I'll hear that application at an appropriate time, but I'm not going to tell the trustee that, 19 based on what's happened so far, he has to stop.

MR. SOLOVAY: Well, Your Honor --

THE COURT: I don't know all the facts. I don't know the accounting records that the trustee has seen. I don't know what's prompting the trustee to proceed. I don't have the basis to say based on Rule 11 today that the entire thing needs 25 to come to an end. I think -- hopefully, if your client

 $1 \parallel$ doesn't have any other documents, that all that should be left $2 \parallel$ then is a simple deposition, and then this case can be ready 3 for trial.

MR. SOLOVAY: That's true, but I do have -- I may 5 have goofed, and I did on the notice of motion for dismissal as 6 opposed to summary judgment, but I think I have presented a 7 motion that Your Honor could and should entertain, at least at 8 the time as you have the other hearing. That is a motion under Section 487 of the New York Judiciary Law against the trustee's 10∥law firm, and I think there's going to be a good bit of 11 evidence to the effect that they have deliberately ignored 12 showings, concrete showings, that the matters they are pursuing 13 are rigged.

To go back to cooked books, I think that you'll find 15 a lot of evidence that they have ignored and shoved aside 16 evidence that these books -- I mean, look, for example, here as 17 to Susan Tane --

THE COURT: I would need to have a factual hearing on 19 that, and it is not something --

MR. SOLOVAY: You would, yes.

THE COURT: -- it is not something that I would do in the absence of testimony by Ms. Tane herself.

MR. SOLOVAY: Well, we can -- I can get you other 24 testimony, including Lev's.

THE COURT: No. I think what you need to do is let

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1 the trustee take Ms. Tane's deposition.

2 MR. SOLOVAY: Yes.

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THE COURT: Now, if, at the end of this, if I decide 4 you're right --

MR. SOLOVAY: Yes.

THE COURT: -- I will do the right thing.

MR. SOLOVAY: Okay.

THE COURT: But I'm not prepared to stop a simple discovery process right dead in its tracks to have a pretrial 10 trial --

MR. SOLOVAY: Okay.

THE COURT: -- on a judiciary act claim. We're going 13 to do this in an efficient way. The trustee is entitled to 14 take his deposition. I will hear -- if you -- if there's a 15 trial, I will hear the evidence. If I decide that you're right 16 and that, based on the evidence I hear at trial, absolutely 17 none of this should have been pursued at all, then I'll do the $18 \parallel$ appropriate thing at that time. But I'm not going to --

MR. SOLOVAY: May I ask --

THE COURT: -- have two trials of the matter or try 21 to prejudge it.

MR. SOLOVAY: May I ask Your Honor that at that trial 23 you hear that part, as well as the part about Ms. Tane? 24 don't have any question that you will quickly dismiss the case 25∥ against Ms. Tane because even the amount that's asked can't be

1 right. She had lost a million dollars, withdrew some, so --2 and they kept charging the same amount, and that's not in 3 dispute. So the amount that they're asking has to be wrong, 4 and that -- and I can give you another illustration. 5 the examples that is also presented by Lev, a client of his by the way whom I had referred way back, a woman for whom I had gotten a \$5 million recovery or severance pay, and she rippled through it. She went through \$5 million like a hot knife through butter.

She had no money left, and they are still bill --11 were still billing her, and they were still proceeding, and 12 they would not have done, except that at the end, Lev finally showed them that she had no money. If they got judgment, they couldn't and wouldn't collect it. It didn't stop them from -when they were told originally that she had little to no money left there, but it did stop them that they weren't going to collect it. So I do think Your Honor may find some misconduct on the part of the trustee's lawyers.

THE COURT: Okay. How much is left on your discovery 20 period in this case?

MR. SOLOVAY: Mine?

THE COURT: The --

MR. SOLOVAY: I don't need any more. I've got Peter Lev's deposition, and that's -- and by the way, we have an interesting article from the Post. I don't know if Your Honor

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1 has seen it, that --

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MR. WOLF: Your Honor, I don't think this is 3 appropriate.

MR. SOLOVAY: -- gives additional information, I 5 think rather concrete information about this.

THE COURT: I don't --

MR. SOLOVAY: The reporter did an amazing job.

THE COURT: I don't want to hear --

MR. SOLOVAY: Okay.

THE COURT: I don't want to hear hearsay news reports 11 about this.

MR. SOLOVAY: I understand that, Your Honor, but it 13 is -- I do -- she did an amazing research job, I must say.

MR. WOLF: Well, with regard to discovery, the 15 scheduling order cut off discovery as of the past week. We had 16 previously noticed the deposition of Ms. Tane. She has not 17 appeared. I was told by counsel she was not going to be 18 appearing.

MR. SOLOVAY: Not pending --

MR. WOLF: We also asked for documents to be produced 21 by her which should have been produced over a week ago. No 22 documents have been produced. There has been no written 23 objection. And I'd also like to just note for Your Honor, this 24 motion to dismiss is not really, as I believe Your Honor 25 pointed out, a motion to dismiss. It does not attack the

1 allegations in the complaint. But there is an overriding issue $2 \parallel$ here, and it does pertain, if I may, not just to this 3 particular proceeding, but to others that may be the subject in the future motion to dismiss or whatever.

Yes, Mr. Starr is serving a prison term. 6 plead guilty to several counts of mail fraud and related fraudulent acts. What he pleaded guilty to related almost primarily, if not exclusively, to the activities of himself personally and of the debtor entity called Starr Investment Advisors, LLC, which was a financial advisory firm. He engaged in putting people's clients into very risky investments. may have absconded with some of the money that was supposed to 13 be made for those investments.

But there was another business of Mr. Starr, and that is of the debtor, Starr & Company, LLC, which was a legitimate business. It was an accounting and financial housekeeping 17∥ business. Starr & Company had employees who prepared, on 18 behalf of their clients, annual tax returns, not just for their 19∥ individual returns but for their company's returns. A number 20 of these clients had employees for whom payroll taxes had to be deducted. Starr & Company employees prepared quarterly memos to these clients as to how much had to be taken out and withheld from the salary payments made to these employees. helped them with loan -- financial loan applications and did other financial housekeeping for them because a number of these

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1 clients who did not write their own checks or keep tallies of 2 their own personal expenses. Starr & Company did that.

The defendant, Tane, and other defendants may dispute $4 \parallel$ how much those services were worth, they may dispute the extent 5 of the services performed, but the fact is that services were 6 performed, and they were performed for Ms. Tane also. $7 \parallel$ what is at issue here, and the trustee is not in the business 8 of trying to extort or coerce monies out of these various clients. He's relying on records that he and his accountants 10 | have gone through meticulously and adjusted, where necessary, 11 to try to claim for those legitimate services that were 12 performed.

Where there's been an adjustment needed where the 14 defendant has shown that the services were paid for, the 15 trustee has either withdrawn the claim or he's adjusted it 16 downward. And as Your Honor can see from today from prior 17 conferences before the Court, he -- his law office and my firm 18∥ have settled numerous matters with regard to these various 19 services.

The trustee is not representing Mr. Starr here. represents the estate and its creditors. That's who he's acting for --

THE COURT: Right.

MR. WOLF: -- notwithstanding whatever newspapers 25 \parallel counsel here may be referring to.

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MR. SOLOVAY: May I --
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             MR. WOLF: So I think Your Honor --
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             THE COURT: I understand, and I really -- we're
 4\parallel getting into argument that's more appropriate for the trial.
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             MR. WOLF: I agree, Your Honor.
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             THE COURT: I denied the motion to dismiss.
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             MR. SOLOVAY: I just had one comment to make, Your
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   Honor.
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             THE COURT: Okay.
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             MR. SOLOVAY: First about documents, they have
11 virtually all of documents that Susan Tane has and some of them
12 from -- they have them as exhibits. They have them already.
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             Secondly, Peter Lev's testimony about the nature of
14 the documents -- second, those documents show that in '07, when
15 Ms. Tane had lost about close to a million, she withdrew, got a
16 new accountant, and had no services of any sort --
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             THE COURT: Okay, stop.
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             MR. SOLOVAY: -- and --
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             THE COURT: I'm not going to hear the merits today.
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             MR. SOLOVAY: No, that's right, but the merits are
21 clear --
             THE COURT: Virtually all documents is not all
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23 documents.
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             MR. SOLOVAY: Pardon me?
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             THE COURT: Virtually all documents is not all
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1 documents. 2 MR. SOLOVAY: That's --3 THE COURT: I'm going to direct you --4 MR. SOLOVAY: Perhaps, but what is true --5 THE COURT: -- to produce --6 MR. SOLOVAY: -- what is true is that what he is describing about the books is very, very sharply refuted by Peter Lev, who should be further examined --8 THE COURT: That's fine. 9 10 MR. SOLOVAY: -- of course, as a witness. THE COURT: All documents that the trustee has asked 11 12 for are to be produced by July 8th. The deposition of Ms. Tane 13 will happen on or before July 22. I expect you to work 14 together in good faith to get that done. I want a joint 15 pretrial order on July 31st, and we'll have a final pretrial 16 conference on August 11th and we'll pick a trial date at that 17 time --18 MR. SOLOVAY: Okay. 19 THE COURT: -- if you haven't otherwise resolved 20 this. MR. SOLOVAY: Will that be on an order? I hadn't 21 22 made notes. 23 THE COURT: I'm sorry? MR. SOLOVAY: Will those dates be on an order? 24

THE COURT: Yes, we'll put them in an order.

1	MR. SOLOVAY: Thanks very much, Your Honor.
2	THE COURT: Okay.
3	MR. SOLOVAY: But as I say
4	MR. WOLF: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
5	MR. SOLOVAY: we have I must tell you we have
6	produced so far virtually all the documents that Susan Tane
7	THE COURT: Okay. Just finish it. Get them done by
8	July 8th.
9	MR. SOLOVAY: Thanks, Your Honor.
10	THE COURT: Okay. I think that's it.
11	MR. WOLF: Yes, Your Honor.
12	UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Your Honor.
13	UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much for your time,
14	Your Honor.
15	UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.
16	(Concluded at 11:29 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATION

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I, Alicia Jarrett, court approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the 5 official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, and to the best of my ability.

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ALICIA JARRETT, AAERT NO. 428 11

Alicie fanett

12 ACCESS TRANSCRIPTS, LLC

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<u>CERTIFICATION</u>

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I, Lisa Luciano, court-approved transcriber, hereby 17 certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the 18 official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the 19 above-entitled matter.

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LISA LUCIANO, AAERT NO. 327

DATE: July 15, 2015

DATE: July 14, 2015

ACCESS TRANSCRIPTS, LLC

CERTIFICATION

I, Ilene Watson, court-approved transcriber, hereby 4 certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the 5 official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the 6 above-entitled matter.

ILENE WATSON, AAERT NO. 447

DATE: July 15, 2015

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